

GREETINGS FROM STATE SENATOR BILL HARDIMAN

I have been in office now for nearly two months and would like to report back to all of you that I am getting well adjusted in Lansing to my new endeavor as your State Senator. I am still learning the ropes of Lansing and the State Legislature, but I have a great staff and wonderful colleagues from both sides of the aisle that are willing to reach out and lend a helping hand. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know briefly what I have been doing since I took office in January.

SWEARING-IN

On January 8, 2003 I was sworn-in to the 92nd legislature, as Michigan's next State Senator from the 29th District. It was a magnificent day. I had well over fifty friends and relatives from the Grand Rapids area join me in Lansing as I took my oath of office.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema appointed me to chair the Senate Standing Committee on Families and Human Services. In addition, I was appointed to the powerful Appropriations Committee where I will serve as chair of the Family Independence Agency Subcommittee as well as be a member on the Commerce, Labor & Economic Development; Capitol Outlay; and Higher Education Subcommittees.

WELCOME PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

I was given the opportunity to be one of the distinguished guests to welcome President George W. Bush to West Michigan at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport on January 29, 2003 during his visit to Grand Rapids. It was truly an honor to greet him, especially the day after he gave such a terrific State of the Union address at such a crucial time in America.

FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES

I recently sponsored Senate Resolution 7 (SR7) supporting President Bush's proposed changes to federal regulations that would allow religious organizations to compete for grant programs administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Receiving bi-partisan support on February 13, 2003, SR 7 passed on the floor of the Michigan Senate. President Bush instructed the federal agencies, including HUD, to take necessary steps to ensure federal policy and programs are fully open to faith-based legislation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Capitol Report by Senator Bill Hardiman is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of his activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact Senator Hardiman's office. Phone: (866) 305-2129. Fax: (517) 373-5801. E-mail: senbhardiman@senate.michigan.gov. Mail: P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, Michigan 48913.

Our website address is: www.senate.state.mi.us/gop/senator/hardiman/